



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,528	08/26/2003	Ryoji Watanabe	116871	2275
25944	7590	03/28/2007	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			PAN, JOSEPH T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2135	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/647,528	WATANABE ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Joseph Pan	2135		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Wanlong B. Tang
AU2135

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/26/03. 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response filed on March 13, 2007 has been carefully considered. Claims 1, 9 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1-14 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 6, 9, 11 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 6, 9, 11 refers to "image display member", which is not defined in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 9, 11, 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakagawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,931,541 B1).

Referring to claim 1:

Nakagawa teaches:

An image forming system comprising:

an image display medium on which a first image is displayed (see column 7, lines 63-67 of Nakagawa); and

an image forming apparatus (see figure 1, element 30 'scene synthesisization circuit' of Nakagawa), wherein:

the image display medium includes a data supply apparatus, which stores therein data of a second image and authentication data used for an access authentication to the data of the second image and supplies the stored data of the second image and the stored authentication data to an external (see column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa); and

the image forming apparatus includes:

an image reading section for reading the displayed first image (see column 7, lines 63-67; and figure 1, element 17 'motion image decoding circuit' of Nakagawa);

a data reading section for reading the supplied data of the second image and the supplied authentication data (see column 7, lines 63-67; and figure 1, element 17 'motion image decoding circuit' of Nakagawa);

an image forming section for forming the first image and the second image when the access to the data of the second image is authenticated, and for forming the first image when authentication fails (see column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa).

Referring to claim 9:

Nakagawa teaches:

An image display medium to display images, comprising:

A first image displayed on a surface of the image display member (see column 7, lines 63-67 of Nakagawa); and

a data supply apparatus for storing data of a second image and supplying the stored data of the second image and the stored authentication data to an external (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa).

Referring to claim 11:

Nakagawa teaches:

An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image reading section for reading a first image of a image display member (see column 7, lines 63-67 of Nakagawa);

a data reading section for reading data of a second image and authentication data from the image display member (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa);

an authentication section for receiving access to the data of the second image and determining whether or not allowing the access to the data of the second image on the basis of the read authentication data (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa); and

an image forming section for forming the first image and the second image when the access to the data of the second image is authenticated, and for forming the first image in other cases (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa).

Referring to claims 13-14:

Nakagawa teaches:

An image forming method comprising:

supplying data of a second image and authentication (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa);

reading a first image (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa);

reading the supplied data of the second image and the supplied authentication data (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa);

receiving access to the data of the second image (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa);

determining whether or not authenticating the access to the data of the second image on the basis of the read authentication data (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa); and

forming the first image and the second image when access to the data of the second image is authenticated, and forming the first image in the other cases (see figure 3; and column 5, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-8, 10, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,931,541 B1) in view of Yasukura (U.S. Patent No. 6,990,588 B1).

Referring to claim 2:

i. Nakagawa teaches the claimed subject matter: an image forming system (see claim 1 above). However, Nakagawa does not specifically mention the encryption.

ii. Yasukura teaches an authentication card system wherein Yasukura disclose the encryption (see column 19, lines 9-17 of Yasukura).

iii. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Yasukura into the method of Nakagawa to add the feature of encryption.

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Yasukura into the system of Nakagawa to add the feature of encryption, because it's well known in the art that encryption can prevent data tampering.

Referring to claims 3-4:

Nakawaga and Yasukura teach the claimed subject matter: an image forming system (see claim 1 above). They further disclose the encryption and the decryption (see column 19, lines 9-17 of Yasukura).

Referring to claim 5:

Nakawaga and Yasukura teach the claimed subject matter: an image forming system (see claim 1 above). They further disclose the authentication (see column 27, lines 37-45 of Yasukura).

Referring to claim 6:

Nakawaga and Yasukura teach the claimed subject matter: an image forming system (see claim 1 above). They further disclose the data supply apparatus is a non-contact memory (see figure 4; and column 18, lines 62-64 of Yasukura).

Referring to claim 7:

Nakawaga and Yasukura teach the claimed subject matter: an image forming system (see claim 1 above). They further disclose the password (see column 1, lines 35-44 of Yasukura).

Referring to claim 8:

Nakawaga and Yasukura teach the claimed subject matter: an image forming system (see claim 1 above). They further disclose the image forming section forms the second image in combination with the first image (see figure 3; and column 3, lines 34-43 of Nakagawa).

Referring to claim 10:

Nakagawa and Yasukura teach the claimed subject matter: an image display member (see claim 9 above). They further disclose the encryption (see column 19, lines 9-17 of Yasukura).

Referring to claim 12:

Nakagawa and Yasukura teach the claimed subject matter: an image forming apparatus (see claim 11 above). They further disclose the decryption (see column 19, lines 9-17 of Yasukura).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments, filed on March 13, 2007, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Pan whose telephone number is 571-272-5987.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached at 571-272-3859. The fax and phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Joseph Pan

Joseph B. Pan
AU2135

Application/Control Number: 10/647,528
Art Unit: 2135

Page 8

March 21, 2007